

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu): May I know whether this is not a department which gets no return for the administration from outside just as Civil and Criminal Courts and such other administration?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Commissioner of Civil Supplies): Yes.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): Will the Hon'ble Member for Civil Supplies be pleased to furnish the House with a caste-war statement of the 157 appointments?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Commissioner of Civil Supplies): I want notice.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): Had not a question already been put by the Hon'ble Member for Labour for a caste-war statement of such appointments?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Commissioner of Civil Supplies): I am not sure. If I have got it, I will send up the figures.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon (Mulakunnathukavu): In view of the very heavy cost that entails upon the Government as seen from the salaries and T. A. may I know what is the establishment cost of a fair price shop established by the Government?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): The establishment cost will be about Rs. 50 per mensem.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): May I know whether any fair price shop show any profit?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Commissioner of Civil Supplies): Some are working at a profit and some are not.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): How is it that some are working profitably and some are not working profitably?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Commissioner of Civil Supplies): When there are a large number of sales there is profit, but when the ration cards are few there are only few sales.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): May I know whether the Government have any objection in making arrangements with private dealers of the locality on their furnishing security?

Mr. President: I can answer that question. It has already been stated here that the intention of the Government is gradually to eliminate these fair-price shops when the scheme gets into full working order. At present it is not safe to do so. We hope to eliminate them gradually. That is the policy of the Government.

SUGAR—CONTROL OF

182. Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): Will Government be pleased to state.—

- (a) the date on which sugar was controlled by Government;
- (b) what were the stock of sugar the dealers had then;
- (c) were the dealers submitting returns then;
- (d) what was the quantity in stock on 1—11—1942;
- (e) how much was imported after control?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Commissioner of Civil Supplies):

(a) 18—7—1942/2—12—1117.

(b) 1193 bags on 11—7—1942.

(c) No; but only since then.

(d) 1918 bags.

(e) 5536 bags up-to-date.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): Did the Government control the stock of sugar before controlling the price?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): No.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): So they controlled the price without controlling the stock. So the merchants had opportunities of removing the stock. At least if the Government takes statistics as to how many bags were kept in each shop before controlling the price, this could have been avoided.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): Sugar control was everywhere with reference to price. It is only in this State and latterly in the Madras Presidency that there has been control with reference to stock. The idea is that the merchant should be made to sell at proper rates. At the outset we had no quota for ourselves. Merchants were getting down their own commodities according to the availability of the stock arranged by their branch offices in other places. Afterwards we wrote for a quota for our State and we got a quota. It is

only after we got the quota, that we distributed sugar. There was no necessity at the earlier stages to control the stock. Therefore it was not done.

Mr. N. Govinda Pai (Nominated): I would like to add that when the prices were first fixed by the Government the local prices were much lower than the price fixed by the Government.

മിസ്റ്റർ കെ. എസ്സ്. പണിക്കർ: പ്രൈസ് കൺട്രോൾ ചെയ്തിട്ട് സാധനം കൺട്രോൾ ചെയ്തില്ലെങ്കിൽ സാധനം കിട്ടുന്നതെങ്ങിനെ?

രാമവർമ്മ തമ്പുരാൻ: സാധനത്തിന്റ കഷ്ടപ്പാട് വരുമ്പോഴല്ലേ അതു കൺട്രോൾ ചെയ്യുവാൻ തരമുള്ളൂ? സാധനം ധാരാളം ഉണ്ടായിരിക്കുകയും, കൂടുതൽ വിലക്കു വിലക്കും ചെയ്യുമ്പോൾ പ്രൈസ് ആണ് ആദ്യം കൺട്രോൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടത്. സാധനങ്ങൾ സ്റ്റാക്കു ചെയ്യുവാൻ ബുദ്ധിമുട്ടുവരുമ്പോഴാണ് അതു കൺട്രോൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടത്. ആദ്യം പ്രൈസാണ് കൺട്രോൾ ചെയ്യേണ്ടിവന്നത്. അതു ചെയ്തു. സ്റ്റാക്കു കുറവാണെന്നുവന്നപ്പോൾ അതും കൺട്രോൾ ചെയ്തു.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കുട്ടി: പബ്ലിക് ചെയ്യുവാനായിട്ട് ഇവിടെനിന്ന് ആളുകളെ അയക്കുമ്പോൾ അവർ വഴിയായി വല്ല സാധനങ്ങളും ഗവണ്മെണ്ടു കൊണ്ടുവരുവാൻ വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ അതു മുൻകൂട്ടി അവരെ നിയമിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുമ്പോൾതന്നെ "Hindu" വീലും "Malabar Mail" ലും മറ്റു പത്രങ്ങളിലും ഗസറ്റിലും പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തി ജനങ്ങളെ അറിയിക്കേണ്ടതു വളരെ അത്യാവശ്യമുള്ള ഒരു സംഗതിയാണ്.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): To put down the various activities of the black market, has not the Government considered the desirability of controlling stock simultaneously with the controlling of the prices?

Rama Varmha Tampuran (Secretary to Government): First, price is controlled and later on stock is controlled when necessity arises. There should be free movement of stock and when there was scarcity later on we found that the stock itself has to be controlled.

Mr. President: Hon'ble Members will note that sugar control is an all-India matter. We have no production in the State. We have to depend upon sugar from outside and follow the instructions issued by the Government of India in this respect.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim (Cranganur): My difficulty is when the price of the existing stock is controlled there is a tendency to remove this stock. So that will encourage the black market.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): We controlled the stock the moment such control was found necessary. There was plenty of stock here. It is only afterwards that export was banned from Madras. Then we got a quota. After that the first consignment that came under the quota system was controlled and the merchants were told that they should not sell it except with our permission. Even a consignment of 200 bags which came before the quota sugar came, was taken possession of by Government and it was through a special petition by Mr. A. B. Salem that 100 bags were released. We got the information that 200 bags of sugar came for a merchant who was not a quota holder. We had been sending every day our man to the station to see what stuffs come to our State. That man gave us the information, and before the sugar went to the go-downs we issued a notice saying "you ought not to sell the sugar until you get the permission of the Civil Supplies Commissioner". Then it was that Mr. Salem put a petition and 100 bags were released. Afterwards not a single bag has been sold except with the permission of the Civil Supplies Commissioner. That was in October or November or somewhere about that. Before that there was no scarcity.

Mr. Ismail Hajee Essa Sait (Mattancheri): The Diwan Peishkar replied that a man is being sent every day to the Station. May I know where is it please.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): To the Railway Station.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): Does the Government know that there was no scarcity of sugar a day before the Control Order was passed?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): I suppose you are speaking with regard to Price Control. At that time there was no question of scarcity. We put the Price Control because the Government of India said there should be a price control in the State also. The whole sugar was controlled by the Sugar Controller of India. All the sugar manufactured in the Factories in India was under this control. They could neither manufacture nor sell after a particular date without the sanction of the sugar controller of India. Then he issued a circular saying that the prices should be controlled. Afterwards, when our merchants placed orders for sugar with factories they said "there is no control in your State and therefore no sugar will be

exported to your State unless the Sugar Control Order is brought into force in your State." Afterwards we put the sugar control here and informed the Sugar Controller of India "we have brought the sugar control in force in our State just on the lines of the one in force in British India. Please therefore allow our merchants to purchase sugar". Afterwards the quota came. This was all done in successive stages.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar (Nellayi): There was plenty of sugar before the price-control order was sent. As soon as this was seen in the Gazette there was scarcity. Did the Government enquire about it?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Commissioner of Civil Supplies): That fact is not accepted.

STANDARD PARAH—TRAVANCORE AND MATTANCHERI

183. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): Will Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the Civil Supplies Commissioner made a statement in the Council that the Travancore Standard Parah is lesser than our Mattancheri Parah in size;

(b) if so, whether the Civil Supplies Commissioner had compared the Mattancheri Parah with the Parur Parah before he gave such an opinion?

Mr. M. M. Paul (Commissioner of Civil Supplies):

(a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): I do not know, whether the Civil Supplies Commissioner made a formal statement. But when some question was put on a certain point of information the then Commissioner of Civil Supplies spoke during the Vrischigam session of the Legislative Council that there was some difference of size in the Travancore Parah as used in Edappalli and North Parur with that of the Mattancheri Para. If there is no such information and if the Government have not made any enquiry will the Government be pleased to find out whether it is correct?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): So far as the statement which I made on the floor of this House is concerned, I have not known a para called Mattancheri Para. I have not made any statement about Mattancheri para here. We have got the Cochin Mudra para and there is the Travancore standard para. These were compared and it was found that the Travancore standard para was bigger than the Cochin Mudra para. I do not know of the Parur para or of the Edappalli para. I have not made any comparison between those paras. The Hon'ble Member for Kunnamkulam did certainly refer to Parur para. I said I know nothing about it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): As far as my information goes there is no standard para recognised officially in Cochin except the so called Taluk paras. But there are varieties of paras, such as Kokkala para, which is known popularly as the Trichur Taluk para which is a little bigger than the Talappilli Taluk para approved by the Government. It is an open secret. The Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk para is known also as Mattancheri para by the masses. I was under the impression that all these various paras in different Taluks are different in sizes. This can also be proved.

Mr. President: It is quite irrelevant to the question.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): There are no two paras in the State. It is all one Mudra para throughout the State. If there is a different para that is not a para recognised by Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan (Vadakkancheri): There is a para popularly known as Kokkala Mudra para. It is a popular expression by the person dealing in paddy which is higher than Talappilli Taluk Mudra para by one Edangazhi.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): There are so many patta paras.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (Kunnamkulam): It is issued by the Taluk Office.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu (Diwan Peishkar): It is not authorised by Government. We will have to make enquiries.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: നെമ്മാറയിലെ പറയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു വല്ല വാദവുമുണ്ടായിരുന്നോ?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭു: ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു.

മിസ്റ്റർ സി. കെ. നായർ: ശരിയായിട്ടുള്ള പറയല്ല എന്നല്ലേ വാദം?

മിസ്റ്റർ എ. മാധവപ്രഭു: അതെ.